

## APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR COMMUNICATING INFORMATION TO PORTABLE COMPUTING DEVICES

### CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5       The present application is being filed concurrently with "System and Method for  
Communicating Information from a Computerized Distributor to Portable Computing  
Devices," U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09842198 (~~serial number not yet assigned~~),  
filed on April 24, 2001, and bearing Attorney Docket No. IBOB-001/00US, and "System  
10       and Method for Dynamically Generating Content on a Portable Computing Device," U.S.  
Patent Application Serial No. 09841970 (~~serial number not yet assigned~~), filed on April 24,  
2001, and bearing Attorney Docket No. IBOB-001/01US.

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### FIELD OF INVENTION

15       Embodiments of the invention relate to systems and methods configured to  
distribute information across networks to remote computing devices. Specifically,  
embodiments of the invention provide a wireless information distributor, a local data  
cache, a protocol for broadcasting information to portable computing devices, a  
procedure for providing wireless information distributors with new information, methods  
for battery conservation on information distributors, and systems and methods for  
increasing the wireless communication range of conventional portable computing devices  
20       without requiring physical device modifications.